

# Committee on Ways and Means

## Summary of Unemployment Provisions in H.R. 3090

With the economy damaged by recession and the September 11 attacks, House Republicans in late 2001 and early 2002 passed four separate bills providing relief for millions of unemployed workers.

The final bill signed into law in March 2002, the “Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act,” directly increased unemployment benefit payments \$11 billion and transferred \$8 billion more in Federal funds to support workers and families.

This total of \$19 billion in added Federal support for the unemployed far exceeds any worker relief bill enacted during and after the early 1990s recession.

### Key Unemployment Provisions in the March 2002 Law

(1) Guaranteed up to 13 weeks of added unemployment benefits in every State.

- Benefits are available through 12/28/02 and are 100% Federally funded.

(2) Provided even longer benefits in States with high unemployment rates.

- In certain high unemployment States, individuals may receive up to an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits.
- Benefits are available through 12/28/02 and are 100% Federally funded.

<b>Simplified Description of Unemployment Benefits under March 2002 Law</b>			
<i>Benefit, Funding</i>	<i>Weeks</i>	<i>Availability</i>	<i>Authority</i>
Regular State	26	Every State	Permanent Federal/State law
Temporary Federal Extended (1)	13	Every State (through 12/28/02)	March 2002 Federal law
Temporary Federal Extended (2)	13	High unemployment States (broader State eligibility than in permanent program below; through 12/28/02)	March 2002 Federal law
Federal-State Extended	13-20	High unemployment States	Permanent Federal/State law
State Extended	Varies	Some States	State law

(3) Transferred \$8 billion in surplus Federal unemployment funds to States.

- Funds can be used to increase or extend benefits or prevent State tax hikes, among other purposes.
- Major State shares (\$m): CA-\$940; TX-\$594; NY-\$492; FL-\$447; IL-\$376; OH-\$343; PA-\$339; MI-\$292; GA-\$249; NJ-\$244; NC-\$240.